

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE

## IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

VOL. VI

MARCH, 1936

NO. 1



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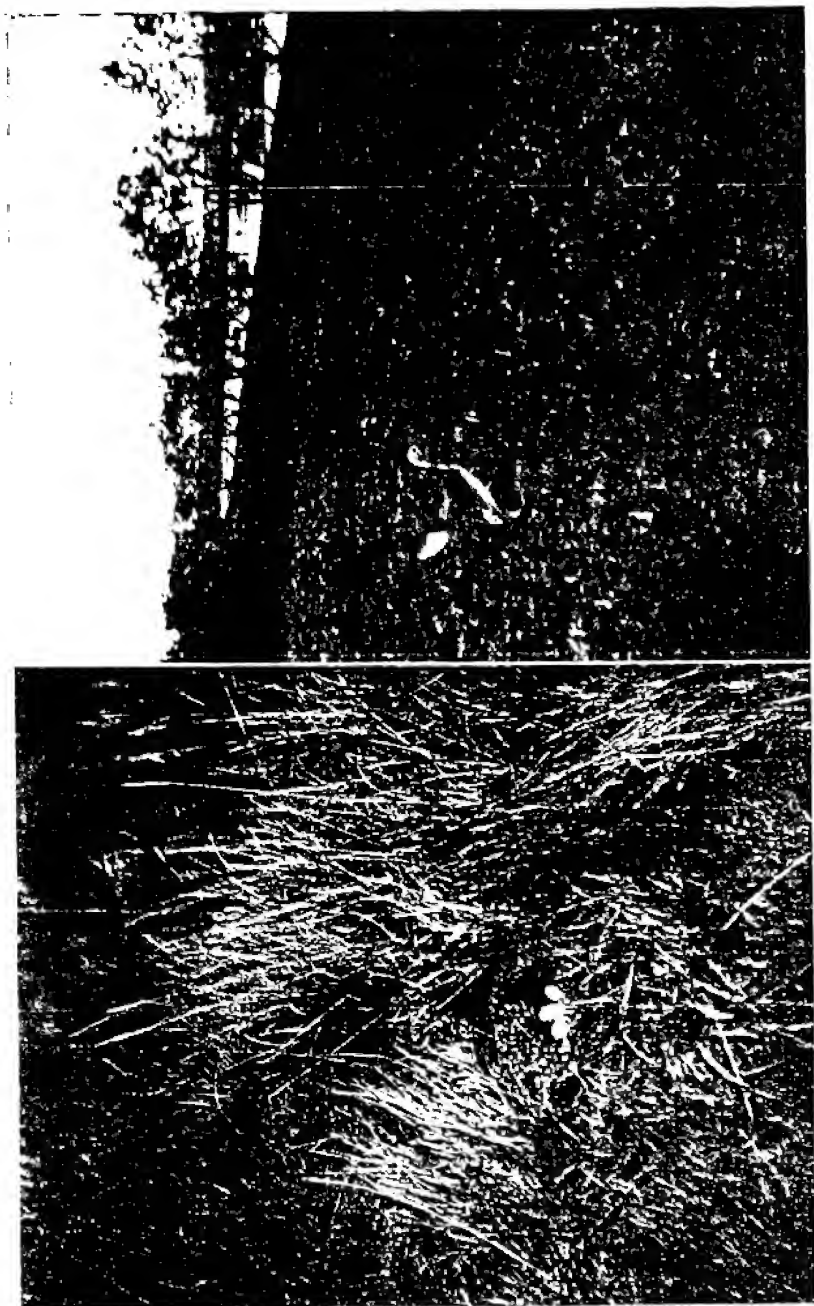
The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; 'The Bulletin,' 1929-1930; 'Iowa Bird Life,' beginning 1931.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** In Iowa, \$1.00 a year. Outside of Iowa, 50c a year. Special rate for all libraries, public or college, 50c a year. Single copies 15c each. (Keep the Editor informed of your correct address.)

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
WINTHROP, IOWA



### EXAMPLES OF UNGRAZED AND GRAZED VIRGIN PRAIRIE

Left view shows a Blue-winged Teal's nest in typical ungrazed virgin prairie land. Prairie Chickens nested near by. View on the right shows the result of overgrazing the virgin prairie, a region practically devoid of bird life. In this photograph an adult Western Gull is trying to "take off" from the bare pasture, but dozens of attempts to rise proved futile. Photographs by Wm. Youngworth.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE PRAIRIE  
CHICKEN IN IOWA

By WM. YOUNG WORTH

Sioux City, Iowa

The Prairie Chicken is a bird of the wild, unbroken tracts of prairie meadow. In Iowa we have few such areas left that are large enough to furnish ample nesting cover for more than a few pairs of the birds at most. Such nesting areas can be artificially created by leaving large blue grass pastures ungrazed for a season or two. This should be done in all parts of the state where Prairie Chickens still exist. These areas should be state-owned game refuges. A splendid example of letting a pasture revert to nature is found in the change in the luxuriance of present plant growth in Dewey's Pasture, a state-owned refuge. This area, near Ruthven, was found to be a barren over-grazed field in 1934, but by June, 1935, ample nesting cover had grown up and furnished nesting sites for quite a few birds. The growth on the area in September, 1935, was a real contrast to the close-cropped pasture of the year before. This refuge should reach near capacity as a nesting region for waterfowl and game birds during the nidification season of 1936.

A preliminary survey of resident Prairie Chickens in Iowa has been made during the past few years by the writer. Personal observations have been made in most parts of the state. This survey is not in any sense complete, for reports of resident birds will come in from time to time from various parts of the state as long as there are any Prairie Chickens left in Iowa. The present note is confined to a brief summary of some of the findings and includes remarks on the Iowa counties where one can still expect to find a few Prairie Hens.

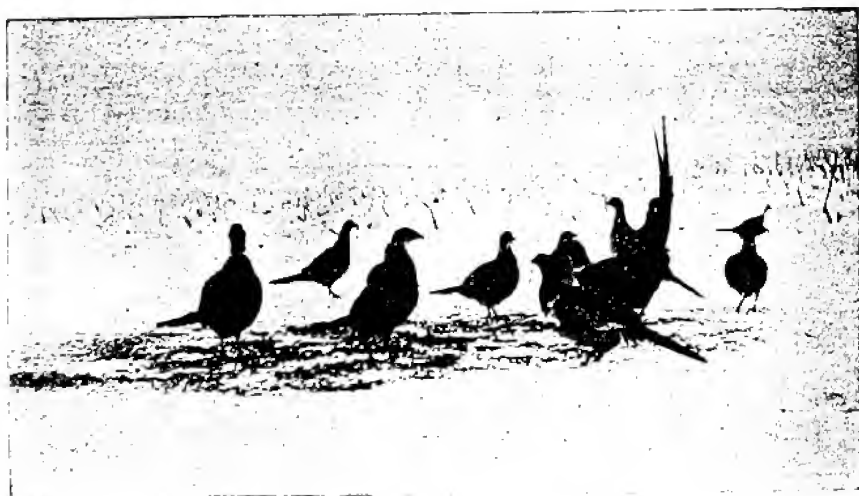
The general areas which hold the most resident birds are the extreme north central counties and the extreme south central counties. There are other scattered and almost isolated areas in nearly all parts of the state. The southern area includes, roughly, Davis, Appanoose, Monroe, Lucas, Wayne, Clarke and Decatur Counties. The border counties in northwestern Missouri still hold a fair number of resident Prairie Chickens, and it is reasonable to believe that the border counties in Iowa, namely, Fremont, Page, Taylor and Ringgold, might harbour a few birds which would stray from the Missouri counties. While I do not have any personal records of the species in these counties, I came across two or three reports which seemed reliable.

Another small area which is centered by Polk County accounts for a small number of resident birds. There are summer records as late as 1934 in the following counties: Polk, Boone, Dallas, Warren, Marion, Mahaska and Jasper. Two seemingly isolated counties which have a few resident birds as yet are Cass County in the southwest and Louisa County on the Mississippi River in the southeastern part of the state. To be explicit, the Cass County resident flocks are found near the towns of Wiotia and Massena, and the Louisa County birds are to be found on the area northwest of the town of Wapello and known by the old settlers as the Wapello Prairie.

In the northeast part of the state, resident birds are still found in Buchanan, Blackhawk, Bremer, Fayette, Winneshiek, Chickasaw, Howard and Mitchell Counties. There are several other counties to the west of the above mentioned counties where undoubtedly a few resident pairs of birds still hold out. Other counties which border Minnesota, namely, Worth, Winnebago and Kossuth still have a resi-

dent population. A few resident birds are also found in Wright County.

In the northwest lake counties of Palo Alto, Emmet, Clay and Dickinson, Prairie Chickens are also found as residents in small numbers. A few pairs of birds are still to be found in the following western counties: Crawford, Harrison, Monona, Woodbury and Lyon. There are recent definite records from the above counties, and the writer believes that a careful search in most of the other northwest counties would reveal the presence of resident birds in small numbers.



SUBSTITUTE FOR PRAIRIE CHICKEN

During the recent severe winter, Ring-necked Pheasants in northern Iowa were unable to withstand the cold and deep snows and perished by thousands. Sportsmen's organizations and other groups saved many of the birds by feeding them. This photograph, from the Iowa State Conservation Commission, shows a small flock gathered at a feeding place.

The fall migration of the Prairie Chicken is of regular occurrence in Iowa. However, the influx of northern birds is much greater in some years, probably due to extremely severe weather conditions, abnormal snows, or the scarcity of food caused by droughts. The fall flight in 1928 was the heaviest ever witnessed by the writer, and flocks of several dozens of birds were not uncommon. A fairly good flight was witnessed during the winter of 1934-1935 with northern birds being found well down past the middle of the state. Large flocks were then found in many parts of the state, from the northeast corner to the Missouri River country. Several good-sized flocks of chickens were noticed in Guthrie and Adair Counties. These birds were considered migrants rather than residents, although this region is rather south of the usual line of migration.

Thus we find that the Prairie Hen still inhabits the major portion of Iowa, but in sadly depleted numbers and under the most trying conditions. How much longer this fine native grouse can hold out is a question, and one which we alone can decide. The birds must have protected breeding grounds. These areas need not be closed to hunting of other legal game, but must be closed to pasturing for all time. Over-pasturing of large pastures where Prairie Chickens could nest safely is the main factor in the solution to save this species in Iowa. Two angles to this fact are the direct destruction of the nests by cattle

and the close-cropping of the grass, which, if done early in the season, precludes any chance for nest building and, if allowed later on, exposes the nests to the natural enemies of the birds.

Protected nesting areas would increase the present stock of birds many times in a few short years. It is highly probable that such areas would also prove attractive to some of the migrating Prairie Chickens and induce them to stay and nest on these inviting tracts. The cost of nesting areas would not be small, of course, and we would want to have such areas wherever a few pairs of birds still existed, to be fair to tax-payers in all corners of the state. Large sums of public money have been spent to bring in foreign game birds and to propagate these birds. Why not spend a little money to save our native game birds? Protected nesting areas would benefit not only the Prairie Chicken but all other game as well. The brief cursory survey given above shows that we have a breeding stock of Prairie Chickens left in Iowa and that we still have time to save them from being erased from our state faunal list.

## GENERAL NOTES

**A Flock of Cardinals.**—While hiking through Castle Hill on February 9, 1935, I saw a flock of 10 Cardinals feeding in a pasture just off the highway. At my approach all flew into nearby low trees and a little later flew to more distant trees. I had never before seen a flock of Cardinals, although the bird is a common permanent resident in Black Hawk County.—JOHN BLIESE, Waterloo, Iowa.

**The Arkansas Kingbird in Linn County.**—On June 2, 1935, Mrs. Jones and I saw an Arkansas Kingbird between Coggin and Central City in Linn County, Iowa. We observed it at 100 yards or less with 12x binoculars for quite a time, and we noted its tail markings, its flight, its habits of feeding on the ground, and other characteristics. We had the Crested Flycatcher for comparison in a nearby woods. We are familiar with the Arkansas Kingbird in western Iowa.—MYRLE L. JONES, Pomeroy, Iowa.

**The Arkansas Kingbird in Northeast Iowa.**—The Arkansas Kingbird is steadily extending its summer range into the Mississippi Valley. On July 16, 1935, the writer saw an adult Arkansas Kingbird near Osborne, Clayton County, and later in the day he saw another bird near Waukon Junction, Allamakee County.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

**Anderson Printed His Own Local Bird List.**—Previous to the writing of the 'Birds of Iowa,' which was published by the Davenport Academy of Science in 1907, Dr. Rudolph M. Anderson printed the 'List of the Birds of Winnebago and Hancock Counties, Iowa.' In a letter from Dr. Anderson, now Chief Biologist at the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, on December 14, 1934, he related the manner in which this early publication was produced, as follows:

"This list was not my first published contribution, but was my first separate or independent publication, and was printed in the office of 'The Independent' at Forest City, Iowa, a weekly newspaper which my father founded about 1887. Quite naturally, I made some use of the facilities of the office for printing data blanks, field catalogues, and in one instance to print and issue a local bird list. I think that I printed 125 to 150 copies of the latter, and in looking it over, I am glad to see that there are very few errors that I need to correct."—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Midsummer Records of the Short-billed Marsh Wren.**—While conducting a field trip with a group of 40 students of the Wild Life School at McGregor, August 6, 1935, I observed four Short-billed Marsh Wrens on one of the islands in the Mississippi River; two more birds were found on another island. They were all in rather tall, thick grass, on dry ground and at least 50 feet from any water with no rushes of any kind near. After returning to my home (Boone County), I was collecting some blazing star (*Liatris*) in a moist meadow where the same sort of coarse grass was growing. Here I observed another specimen of this wren. Although I did not have my binoculars, I approached within 10 feet of this bird, and I observed the crown and noted the absence of the line over the eye. This was on August 12. My conclusion is that these birds have nested in northeastern as well as in central Iowa.—W. M. ROSENE, Ogden, Iowa.

**The Red Crossbill at Pomeroy.**—On October 14, 1935, we were pleasantly surprised to find a male Red Crossbill in one of our banding traps, which was located near a bird-bath under a row of sunflowers. I had the bird on display that evening and at the city school the next morning, then liberated him at about nine o'clock. I was considerably worried when I saw him alight in an elm tree very near the window, where he stayed for over an hour, hardly moving all the while. I rather expected to see some youngster bring him into the school exhausted or dead, so was especially pleased when, four days later, I found the same bird on the sunflowers and approached within arm's length. After another five days he brought his lady friend to our yard, but she refused to enter any traps.—MYRLE L. JONES, Pomeroy, Iowa.

**Starlings in Jefferson County.**—I have an early record of the Starling which Mr. DuMont sometime ago suggested I send in. On December 23, 1930, I saw a dozen birds which I decided were Starlings. I saw them again on December 25 and on January 1, 1931, when I studied them carefully and noted their distinguishing marks, as well as listened to their singing. My next record was September 16, 1932, at which time four appeared and fought with some Red-headed Woodpeckers over a hollow tree. The woodpeckers won. Since then the Starling has been here almost continuously and nested in this county in 1933. Last summer I found a roost of over 1000 Starlings.—MALCOLM McDONALD, Fairfield, Iowa.

**Bird-banders of Iowa.**—A recent report by the Biological Survey shows no bander in Iowa in the upper brackets as to number of birds banded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935. Only eight banders in the country are included in this group. However, among the 29 banders who banded between 500 and 800 birds appear the names of three Iowans: M. L. Jones of Pomeroy, Malcolm McDonald of Fairfield, and Gustav Schultz of Sutherland. Dr. Dayton Stoner of Albany, N. Y., formerly connected with the University of Iowa, was also in this group. Mrs. Marie Dales of Sioux City is in the next highest group, those who banded between 300 and 500 birds.

The Survey received two pictures from Allen Green of Oakville, Iowa, showing Mallards and Wood Ducks on his game sanctuary, and a flashlight picture showing Charles J. Spiker of Branchport, N. Y., and another coöperator with the equipment they use to capture swallows roosting at night in cattail marshes and willow thickets. Mr. Spiker is a former Iowan and a Founder of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.—DR. MARY PRICE ROBERTS.

**Nuttall's Poor-will in Clay County.**—Between the hours of one and two A. M., May 29, 1935, a Poor-will was heard singing almost continuously at Mud Lake, near Ruthven, in Clay County, Iowa. The repeated phrases "Poor-will" sounded much like the last two syllables of the Whip-poor-will's song, and varied in intensity as if the bird were continually changing its position with respect to the listener. This gave the impression that the bird was singing on the wing, over the lake. It was a bright moonlight night; the temperature was about 58 degrees F.—GEORGE A. AMMANN, Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Mich.

**The Starling in the 98th Iowa County.**—The reporting of the Starling for Buena Vista County leaves only one county in Iowa without an actual record of the Starling. On August 25, 1935, the writer found two Starlings 10 miles north of Alta, Buena Vista County; two more birds were seen 13 miles north of the same town. The rest of the day was spent in driving on the highways and section roads in Osceola County in a fruitless search to add a Starling record for the only unreported county in the state. Over 125 miles were covered in Osceola County in an effort to complete the original Starling survey started by Philip A. Du Mont.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

**Red Crossbills at Dubuque.**—On the afternoon of January 28, 1936, I watched 21 Red Crossbills in Linwood Cemetery for a half hour. They appeared to be in two flocks, as they separated and joined several times as I watched them. Their note, sounded singly and on the wing, resembled that of the Goldfinch, but given in unison might be mistaken for the alarmed chatter of a flock of Bob-whites.—ETHAN A. HEMSLEY, Dubuque, Iowa.

**The Christmas Bird Census.**—TAMA, IOWA (along highway No. 63 between Tama and Traer; food-shelf at home), Dec. 25, 1935. Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 10; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Barred Owl, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 15; Black-capped Chickadee, 12; Tufted Titmouse, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 2; Starling, 63; Meadowlark, 21; Cardinal, 2; Goldfinch, 3; Tree Sparrow, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 23. Total, 21 species, 188 individuals. (Thirteen of the species were photographed in colored motion pictures).—MR. AND MRS. W. G. MACMARTIN.

WEBSTER, IOWA (farm lands and woods), Dec. 26, 1935; 9:30 A. M. to 1:30 P. M. Four inches or more of snow on the ground; bitter north wind; temp. -12 degrees at start, -4 at return, with -2 at warmest time. Bob-white, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 7; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 7; Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 14; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Starling, 2; Cardinal, 6; Pine Siskin, 16; Tree Sparrow, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 40. Total, 15 species, 124 individuals.—MYRLE L. JONES, HARRY TELLES.

(The February issue of 'Bird-Lore' contained Iowa bird censuses from Backbone State Park, Des Moines, Ogden, Pierson and Sioux City, with a combined total of 49 species. An innovation in connection with the censuses in this issue of 'Bird-Lore' is the inclusion of photographs of prominent persons who participated in the census. The Iowa section contains the likenesses of Mrs. Toni Wendelburg and Walter Roscne, Sr.—Ed.)



**Bird Migration at Dubuque.**—Below is given the composite list of migrants observed by members of the Dubuque Bird Club during the spring of 1935. The birds were seen in the Dubuque region, and the "first seen" date is given for each species.

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Loon, May 9.                    | Least Flycatcher, Apr. 21.      |
| Pied-billed Grebe, May 1.       | Wood Pewee, Apr. 28.            |
| Double-cr. Cormorant, Apr. 19.  | Tree Swallow, Apr. 29.          |
| Great Blue Heron, Mar. 31.      | Bank Swallow, Apr. 29.          |
| Green Heron, May 6.             | Rough-winged Swallow, Apr. 27.  |
| Black-crowned Heron, May 11.    | Barn Swallow, May 12.           |
| Am. Bittern, Apr. 28.           | Cliff Swallow, May 10.          |
| Mallard, Mar. 31.               | Purple Martin, Mar. 28.         |
| Blue-winged Teal, Mar. 27.      | Red-br. Nuthatch, May 10.       |
| Shoveller, Apr. 16.             | Brown Creeper, Apr. 8.          |
| Scaup Duck, Mar. 27.            | House Wren, Apr. 29.            |
| Turkey Vulture, May 21.         | Prairie Marsh Wren, May 5.      |
| Red-tailed Hawk, Mar. 24.       | Catbird, Apr. 28.               |
| Bald Eagle, Mar. 27.            | Brown Thrasher, Apr. 13.        |
| King Rail, May 11.              | Robin, Feb. 21.                 |
| Virginia Rail, May 14.          | Wood Thrush, Apr. 17.           |
| Sora Rail, May 5.               | Hermit Thrush, Apr. 16.         |
| Florida Gallinule, May 16.      | Olive-backed Thrush, Apr. 23.   |
| Am. Coot, Apr. 16.              | Gray-cheeked Thrush, May 13.    |
| Semi-pal. Plover, May 11.       | Bluebird, Feb. 27.              |
| Killdeer, Mar. 12.              | Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher, May 21.   |
| Woodcock, Mar. 29.              | Golden cr. Kinglet, Jan. 4.     |
| Wilson's Snipe, Apr. 10.        | Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Apr. 2.       |
| Upland Plover, Apr. 29.         | Bohemian Waxwing, Feb. 13.      |
| Spotted Sandpiper, May 11.      | Cedar Waxwing, Mar. 12.         |
| Solitary Sandpiper, May 1.      | Migrant Shrike, Mar. 25.        |
| Greater Yellow-legs, Apr. 16.   | Yellow-thr. Vireo, May 14.      |
| Lesser Yellow-legs, Apr. 28.    | Blue-headed Vireo, May 20.      |
| Pectoral Sandpiper, May 6.      | Red-eyed Vireo, May 11.         |
| White-rump. Sandpiper, May 6.   | Warbling Vireo, Apr. 24.        |
| Least Sandpiper, May 3.         | Black & White Warbler, May 5.   |
| Semi-pal. Sandpiper, May 6.     | Prothonotary Warbler, May 3.    |
| Wilson's Phalarope, Apr. 29.    | Golden-wd. Warbler, May 14.     |
| Herring Gull, Jan. 6.           | Blue-wd. Warbler, May 10.       |
| Ring-billed Gull, Mar. 18.      | Tenn. Warbler, May 9.           |
| Forster's Tern, May 3.          | Nashville Warbler, May 10.      |
| Least Tern, May 19.             | Parula Warbler, May 21.         |
| Black Tern, May 9.              | Yellow Warbler, May 2.          |
| Mourning Dove, Mar. 22.         | Magnolia Warbler, May 10.       |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo, May 31.   | Myrtle Warbler, Apr. 15.        |
| Black-billed Cuckoo, May 30.    | Black-thr. Gr. Warbler, May 14. |
| Whip-poor-will, May 9.          | Cerulean Warbler, May 18.       |
| Nighthawk, May 6.               | Blackburnian Warbler, May 8.    |
| Chimney Swift, Apr. 20.         | Chestnut-sd. Warbler, May 8.    |
| Ruby-thr. Hummingbird, Apr. 20. | Bay-breasted Warbler, May 14.   |
| Belted Kingfisher, Mar. 31.     | Black-poll Warbler, May 21.     |
| Flicker, Apr. 2.                | Palm Warbler, May 3.            |
| Pileated Woodpecker, Feb. 2.    | Oven-bird, May 5.               |
| Red-h. Woodpecker, Mar. 30.     | Grinnell's W. Thrush, May 3.    |
| Yellow-b. Sapsucker, Apr. 3.    | Mourning Warbler, May 14.       |
| Kingbird, May 1.                | Northern Yellowthroat, May 8.   |
| Crested Flycatcher, May 15.     | Yellow-breasted Chat, May 14.   |
| Phoebe, Mar. 21.                | Canada Warbler, May 18.         |
| Alder Flycatcher, May 10.       | Am. Redstart, Apr. 29.          |



Bobolink, May 11.  
 E. Meadowlark, Mar. 12.  
 W. Meadowlark, Apr. 18.  
 Yellow-hd. Blackbird, May 19.  
 Red-wd. Blackbird, Mar. 13.  
 Orchard Oriole, May 21.  
 Baltimore Oriole, May 2.  
 Bronzed Grackle, Mar. 12.  
 Cowbird, Mar. 29.  
 Scarlet Tanager, May 8.  
 Rose-br. Grosbeak, Apr. 29.  
 Indigo Bunting, May 6.  
 Dickcissel, May 14.  
 Purple Finch, Apr. 3.

Pine Siskin, Feb. 13.  
 Goldfinch, Apr. 2.  
 Red Crossbill, Apr. 9.  
 Towhee, Apr. 25.  
 Savannah Sparrow, Apr. 16.  
 Vesper Sparrow, Mar. 30.  
 Chipping Sparrow, Apr. 7.  
 Field Sparrow, Apr. 7.  
 White-thr. Sparrow, Apr. 18.  
 Fox Sparrow, Mar. 17.  
 Lincoln's Sparrow, Apr. 14.  
 Swamp Sparrow, Mar. 16.  
 Song Sparrow, Mar. 12.

—MRS. R. W. JOHNSON, Dubuque, Iowa.

**A Red-bellied Woodpecker.**—An example of the distrust which some birds have for the Red-bellied Woodpecker was shown me at my home one morning in November, 1935. A bird of this species was looking into the nesting cavity of a pair of Downy Woodpeckers in our English walnut, when suddenly a male Downy appeared and began scolding vigorously. He was soon joined by a female Downy, who also scolded at this inspection of what was probably the Downies' roosting place at this date. The vociferations of the Downies soon attracted about 100 Slate-colored Juncos, several English Sparrows, four Goldfinches, a pair of Cardinals, a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers, four Tufted Titmice and three White-breasted Nuthatches, all of which flew to nearby trees and eyed the Red-bellied Woodpecker with some alarm, while the Titmice and Nuthatches scolded also. After several minutes the flock dispersed by two and threes and left only the Downies continuing the one-sided argument. Finally, the Red-belly, probably bored by so much publicity, flew off. One of the Downies followed him.—LEONARD S. PHILLIPS, Le Claire, Iowa.

**Records Made in Brenton's Slough Region, Polk County, in Fall of 1935.**—In company with several members of the Des Moines Audubon Society, I made a number of interesting observations. On September 4, three Stilt Sandpipers in fall plumage and one Baird's Sandpiper were seen. On this date we saw two Arkansas Kingbirds on a telephone wire one mile south of Brenton's Slough. On Beaver Creek, which flows through the wooded section of Brenton's Slough area, we observed Wood Ducks on the following dates: 2, Oct. 1; 15, Oct. 6; a large flock, not counted, Oct. 10; 17, Oct. 11; several accidentally flushed, Oct. 12. All of these ducks probably belonged to the same flock.

One Leconte's Sparrow was seen on October 10, and one on October 14. We had an unusually good opportunity to observe the bird each time, and recognition marks were plainly seen. On October 11, a flock of about 40 American Pipits were seen scattered over a grassy hillside and an adjoining mud flat near Beaver Creek. We watched them for twenty minutes. One Pipit was seen on October 14, and 10 the next day.

On November 7, we saw a pair of Buffle-heads and one Ruddy Duck. We also saw a flock of 20 Brewer's Blackbirds in company with Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings. In a pasture we saw a flock of approximately 50 Lapland Longspurs and Prairie Horned Larks, of which the greater number were longspurs.—MRS. HAROLD R. PEASLEY, Des Moines, Iowa.

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Youngworth, Wm. Notes on the American Egret and Little Blue Heron in Iowa; *Wils. Bull.*, XLVII, pp. 73-74.

(The above titles are taken from the Pierce Bibliography. All available material is carefully checked for Iowa references. Authors whose writings appear in obscure publications should send bibliographical information to 'Iowa Bird Life' so that this yearly list may be made as complete as possible.)—F. J. P.

**Story County Notes.**—A flock of 10 Greater Prairie Chickens was noted on December 20, 1934. The Short-eared Owl was seen on December 1 and 20, 1934. The Flicker was seen on November 26 and December 20, 1934, and probably wintered here. One Meadowlark was seen on November 13, and a pair on November 17, 1934. The Marsh Hawk remained until December 15, 1934, and appeared on April 6, 1935. The first Rough-legged Hawk appeared on October 29, 1934, and I saw 30 individual birds of this species before its departure in late winter. During the fall migration of 1934, I also saw 18 of the Buteo hawks but could not identify them because of distance; probably many of these were Redtails.

Dickcissels were unusually scarce during the summer of 1935, the Bobolink was not seen at all, and several other species which are usually noted could not be found. The Starling is increasingly common. The Sparrow Hawk was very common, being recorded on 106 days, from March 19 to October 22, 1935, in numbers varying from one to six birds. The Upland Plover was noted on 31 days, from May 6 to August 26, 1935; the largest number seen at one time was four. My first record of the Arkansas Kingbird was June 5, 1935; another was seen on September 4. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed on September 14, 1935, which was my second record for this species.—HENRY BIRKELAND, Nevada, Iowa.

**October Bird Notes.**—The first Golden Plover for the fall season was a flock seen near Sioux City on October 1, 1935. One lone plover was seen on October 27 in the same area. Lapland Longspurs were first reported on October 27, 1935, when a good many thousand of the birds were seen on the Hornick Bottoms. On the same day a Prairie Falcon was also seen, and his presence seemed to bother a large flock of longspurs, for they circled about the falcon for ten or fifteen minutes and did not leave until the writer approached too closely to the latter bird. This falcon is an extremely active flyer and no doubt catches longspurs without much difficulty. The bird records for the day were closed with the following entry: "An almost completely albino Red-tailed Hawk, slight coloring on throat and belly, upper parts white, bright red tail."—WM. YOUNG WORTH, Sioux City, Iowa.

**The Lazuli Bunting in Warren County.**—About noon on July 25, 1935, Mrs. John E. Stewart and I were looking for Mockingbirds reported in the vicinity of Center Chapel, located five miles west of Indianola in Warren County. We heard what we thought was the song of an Indigo Bunting. Locating the bird in the top branches of a dead tree, we were surprised to find a male Lazuli Bunting. We watched the bird for an hour with 8-power binoculars. Its behavior seemed to indicate a territory-holding bird. It had three definite singing perches in the immediate vicinity of this tree and one across a small field in an osage orange hedge. It drove a male Indigo Bunting out of its territory, and in so doing, the two birds came to rest for several minutes on a wire fence directly in front of us. Here we had an excellent opportunity to observe them, and we agree with Taverner that, "The adult male Lazuli Bunting is unmistakable."

Early on the morning of July 27, 1935, Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Miss Olivia McCabe, Mrs. John E. Stewart and I found the Bunting acting exactly as before, but a thorough search failed satisfactorily to reveal the female. We believe this is the first record of the Lazuli Bunting this far south and east in Iowa.—MRS. HAROLD R. PEASLEY, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Lewis's Woodpecker at Clear Lake.**—I have had a Lewis's Woodpecker eating at a feeding station near my home in Clear Lake, Iowa, during the past winter. The bird was first observed on November 10, 1935, and has been seen daily since then. It is still here (March 2, 1936), and I will take note of the date of its departure. It is a large black woodpecker with a gray band around its neck blending into a robin-red breast. It is about 10½ inches in length and is not at all shy. The only other record of the Lewis's Woodpecker in Iowa appears to be the individual that was seen at Sioux City during the winter of 1928-1929.—F. H. DAVIS, Iowa State Conservation Commission, Clear Lake, Iowa.

**Feeding-station Visitors.**—We have three feeders for winter birds—one a window shelf, another of the weather-vane type, and a suet rack. The window shelf feeder has given us the most entertainment, as it is on a south living-room window under a porch and is under watch at all times. Cracked nuts, meat scraps, crumbs and various kinds of seeds are kept in the feeders. During the unusually severe weather, January 22 to February 22, 1936, our window shelf visitors included Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, and a few Slate-colored Juncos. A Red-bellied Woodpecker which came to the weather-vane feeder would not come to the window, and a Flicker which we saw several times in the yard would not come to either place, but no doubt the latter gleaned many nuts from those carried away and hidden in the trees by the nuthatches. Tree Sparrows and a lone Starling were seen eating with the stock in the cattle-yard.—MRS. F. J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

**Bird-banding Notes.**—Banding work at Fairfield during the fall of 1935 was very interesting, as the birds were very plentiful. I banded only 6 White-throated Sparrows in the fall of 1934, but in 1935 I banded 161. I used the same traps and placed food in the same places, and believe that the factor of weather made the difference. We had a White-throat repeating in the traps through the winter of 1935-1936, which is the first winter record I have had for this bird. I saw Mourning Doves in December, 1935, and in January, 1936, and on January 7, I saw a flock of 7 Bluebirds.—MALCOLM McDONALD, Fairfield, Iowa.

**Warblers at Des Moines in the Fall of 1935.**—The article on warblers by the Ames trio (Hendrickson, Ferrier, Phillips: Iowa Bird Life, V, pp. 45-46) was of great interest to me. For years I have been keeping records of the spring and fall migrations of these elusive little birds. The warblers seemed unusually scarce about Des Moines during the autumn of 1935, and a number of Audubon members reported they had seen none. However, on September 19 and 20, quite a number twittered in my garden and seemed intent upon feeding among bush and tree—an enjoyable respite on their southward flight. I saw the following species: Black and White, quite a few; Tennessee, 4; Nashville, 12; Yellow, many; Magnolia, 3; Black-throated Blue, 2, males; Myrtle, common during September; Blackburnian, one pair; Chestnut-sided, 4; Pine, several; Connecticut, 3; Northern Yellowthroat, common all summer; Wilson's, 6; Canada, 3; Redstart, 6. The Black-throated Green had been seen earlier in the month. On the peak day in the fall of 1934, among others I had a flock of Nashville, some Pine, three pairs of Blackburnian, and several Black and White Warblers at the low bird pool at intervals all day.—MRS. TONI R. WENDELBURG, Des Moines, Iowa.

## NECROLOGY

Emil Danton Nauman, well known for his studies and writing of birds of southeastern Iowa, passed away at his home at Sigourney, Iowa, December 15, 1935. He lacked four days of being 71 years of age. He had been in poor health for more than four years, but had remained quite active in his bird work and writing during that time. A great lover of outdoor walks, he enjoyed this form of exercise to the last, and was walking a mile and a half to two miles each day until December 12, when he suffered a stroke of apoplexy from which he did not recover.

Mr. Nauman lived in Keokuk County, Iowa, practically his entire life. He was a thorough



E. D. NAUMAN IN 1928

Reprinted from 'Iowa Bird Life' for September, 1931

countryman. He was born in a log cabin and lived close to the soil all of his days, either as a farmer or a resident in a country town. He enjoyed country living to the fullest extent; the quiet simplicity and pastoral charm satisfied his inner being, while his association with wild-life was a constant source of pleasure. Those of us who were privileged to have personal acquaintance with the man, saw in his quiet, unobtrusive manners, in his keen eye and observant and retentive mind, the fruits of a lifetime well spent in work best suited to his nature. He was, primarily, a nature lover. All things in the nature world fascinated him, although the birds as an integral part were always the most interesting feature and the object of his particular study. He went into the fields and woods to enjoy and appreciate nature—not to make up a mere bird list. His writings demonstrate this fact. Coupled with a highly developed sense of appreciation was an engaging literary style that made his writings of interest to

a wide circle of readers. Besides newspaper notes and the 'Round Robin Letters' now appearing serially in 'The Oologist', he published about 45 long and short articles in the ornithological journals.

Mr. Nauman was a charter member of Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and was always keenly interested in our welfare as an organization and generous in his writing for 'Iowa Bird Life.' In his passing we have sustained a distinct loss, and he will be greatly missed.

A complete biographical sketch of Mr. Nauman appeared in 'Iowa Bird Life' for September, 1931.—F. J. P.

## RECENT BIRD BOOKS

**BIRD FLIGHT**, by Gordon C. Aymar (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1935; cloth, pp. i-xii+1-234; price, \$4).

The average bird book's bid for recognition is found in its written text. 'Bird Flight', however, is unusual in this respect. Its predominant feature is the series of 200 photographs, nearly every one of which is of exceptional quality and a testimonial to the bird photographer's patience and skill. Flying birds in almost every conceivable position, with particular emphasis on the various movements of the wing, are displayed. The author uses his own photographs besides drawing freely from the best work of photographers both in this country and abroad. The result is a wonderful collection of photographs that will delight anyone who picks up the book. Excellent engraving, and printing on heavily enameled paper, have given the photographs the best possible presentation.

Four short chapters comprise the text. The first chapter, 'Evolution', is concerned with the ancestry of birds. The second chapter, on 'Biology', describes the general structure of birds with especial reference to the feathers and the development of flying apparatus. This is an interesting chapter and will give the reader many facts. The chapter on 'Migration' mentions various theories for the migration of birds and describes some interesting experiments bearing on the subject. The final chapter is entitled 'Aerodynamics'. It discusses in very clear language the various ways in which birds actually propel themselves through the air. Older books were more or less uncertain about this phase of the subject. Mr. Aymar has made a thorough study from all possible angles. Present-day aeronautical science, furnishing comparisons of airplane design and operation with the flight functions of birds, has given the author much valuable aid in his studies. We have in his accurate description a solution of many of the puzzles in the mechanics of bird flight.

The explanatory captions accompanying the photographs are of length and are quite adequate; the brevity of the text is somewhat offset by these running through the entire volume. The reading of the book will furnish an evening of entertainment, while the illustrative portion will invite a re-perusal of it at frequent intervals. The typography, titles and binding are thoroughly modernistic.—F. J. P.

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**WINTER BIRDS AROUND MY HOME**, by Thomas G. Scott and George O. Hendrickson (Iowa State College, Ames, Ia, 1936; pp. 1-32).

This publication contains very useful suggestions for attracting and feeding winter birds. Brief descriptions of 24 species are given, and an outline drawing, intended for coloring, accompanies each bird. Coloring the pictures is an excellent method of fixing birds' markings in the mind of the beginner, as well as furnishing entertainment for the colorist. Suggestions for study and a plan for a bird calendar are given in the closing pages. The booklet should prove very popular with grade and high school students. Although most of the references are to Iowa, winter birds are much the same in various parts of the country, and the booklet could have a much wider application. Copies may be had upon request to Extension Service, Iowa State College, Ames.—F. J. P.

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**THE MIGRATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS**, by Frederick C. Lincoln (Circular No. 363, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 1935; pp. 1-72).

Intended for free distribution among bird students, this new bulletin of the Biological Survey will be well received. It supersedes the

Survey's 'Bird Migration', by Wells W. Cooke, in print for many years, and brings up to date the general knowledge of this subject. While it is not a lengthy treatise, it is filled with information and will be found very interesting reading. There are 29 illustrations, including numerous maps. Requests for this bulletin should be sent to the U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.—F. J. P.

Our new members are Wesley Bartlett, New Sharon; Malcolm McDonald, Fairfield; Ellison Orr, Waukon; Mrs. Walter Pike, Central City; Mrs. Arnold Zurawski, Burlington. New subscribers are Leo Breslau, New York City, and Chas. F. Pahrman, LaPorte, Ind. An additional "Permanent File" of 'Iowa Bird Life' is in the library of the State Historical Society of Iowa, at Iowa City, which brings the number of "Permanent Files" up to nearly 30.

Philip A. DuMont, well known member of our Union who is now employed by the U. S. Biological Survey, has been transferred from the Malheur Lake Refuge in Oregon to the Sand Lake Waterfowl Refuge, a new Federal development of 23,000 acres near Aberdeen, South Dakota. He has been appointed Refuge Manager at the latter place.

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union contributed to the fund for purchase of land for the "Hawk Mountain" Bird Sanctuary in Pennsylvania, a worthy project of the Emergency Conservation Committee. Mrs. C. N. Edge, Chairman of the Committee, thanking us, says in part: "Will you express to your members our appreciation of the gift toward the purchase of Hawk Mountain. Tell them, please, that they have given more than an acre of the land, and that we are very grateful. It was indeed kind of you to send this money from Iowa. . . . We hope some day to welcome your members to Hawk Mountain. You would admire the work being done there. . . . The Sanctuary is doing much good in Pennsylvania; a real sentiment for hawk protection is being aroused."

We trust that our members will send in their interesting bird records during the coming year. Iowa is a large state and our members are widely scattered over its surface. We want to hear of the activities of our members and of the unusual birds that are being seen in various parts of the state. In this way we can keep in closer touch with one another. Let us hear from you regularly. In order that we may have as many members as possible represented, we ask that you keep your articles brief without omitting important facts or details. The migration record of the Dubuque Bird Club in this issue is a valuable list and offers a basis for comparison with what others have seen elsewhere. We shall welcome similar lists from other parts of the state.

Invite your friends to join us. We are always ready to cooperate by sending sample copies of 'Iowa Bird Life' to anyone within Iowa who is interested in birds. Help us to expand our good work!

**MISS KATE LaMAR,**

Sec'y.-Treas.

1231 39th St., Des Moines, Ia.

#### THE OOLOGIST

is the only publication on the American Continent devoted to those who are interested in collecting, preserving, and studying birds' eggs. Fifty cents per year.

#### THE OOLOGIST

Lacon Illinois



**THE ANNUAL CONVENTION—FAIRFIELD, MAY 8-9**

Our fourteenth annual meeting will be held at Fairfield, Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9. Although it is too early to give details of the meeting when this issue of 'Iowa Bird Life' is made up for the printer (in February), we can assure you that it will be an important gathering and will be well worth every member's time and the trip to Fairfield. Our first Fairfield meeting, held in 1933, was one of the best meetings in the history of our organization. Those who attended in 1933 will not miss the 1936 event, and for those members who did not attend we give a hearty endorsement of the Fairfield Bird Club's hospitality and earnestly urge them to come this year. The events of Friday will include the usual program of interesting papers and discussions and the evening banquet. The field trip, to the best birding grounds around Fairfield, will occupy Saturday forenoon.

A few titles on the program are ready for announcement. Mrs. Toni Wendelburg will present "Some Studies in Bird Behavior." Miss Olivia McCabe will give a talk. Mrs. MacMartin will show a series of colored moving pictures on "Birds and Flowers." Mrs. Henry Frankel, Chairman of State Conservation Commission, will talk on conservation in Iowa. It is also fairly certain that Logan Bennett, Thomas Scott and Paul L. Errington, all of Iowa State College, will give talks on their wildlife work. Our conventions would hardly have the proper atmosphere without a bird talk by Walter Rosenc, who has appeared on the program of nearly every meeting. We feel confident that he will entertain us this year, as usual.

There is still time open, and we urge those who can to appear on our program. Send title, time required for reading paper, and other details to Dr. George Hendrickson, at Iowa State College, at once. We shall be very glad to give you a place.

Complete announcements will be mailed to each member at a later date. Meanwhile, we suggest that you keep this important event in mind and make plans to be in Fairfield on May 8 and 9.

# **HOTEL LEGGETT**

**FAIRFIELD, IOWA**

Official Headquarters for

**IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CONVENTION**

May 8 and 9

**We Welcome You To Our City**

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